

Ozal wins confidence vote

ANKARA (R) — The new Turkish civilian government of Prime Minister Turgut Ozal won a parliamentary vote of confidence Saturday, giving it a clear mandate after more than three years of military rule. Mr. Ozal, whose cabinet was approved by President Kenan Evren earlier this month, had submitted his programme to the traditional vote in the new parliament which was formed after last month's elections, the first since the 1980 military coup. The programme was approved by 213 votes to 115, with 65 abstentions. Mr. Ozal's programme centres on a change towards a free market economy and the streamlining of the country's cumbersome bureaucracy. Six members did not attend Saturday's vote in the 399-seat parliament.

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Merry Christmas

Due to the Christmas holiday, the Jordan Times will not appear on Monday, Dec. 26. We take this opportunity to wish all of our readers and advertisers a very merry Christmas and a happy holiday.

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3 Israelis wounded in Sidon attack

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — At least three Israeli soldiers were wounded Saturday when gunmen fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a patrol outside this southern Lebanese city, eyewitnesses said. They said ambulances and Israeli military vehicles rushed to the scene.

Rifles from Israel intercepted in U.S.

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (R) — U.S. customs officers Friday confiscated 12,000 rifles shipped here from Israel and apparently bound for Guatemala, a spokesman said. The rifles, old bolt-action models, were in four containers marked "machinery" offloaded from an Israeli freighter at Fort Lauderdale's Port Everglades. No arrests were reported and the customs spokesman said investigations were continuing.

Guinea quake kills 143, injures 250

ABIDJAN (R) — Tremors continued to shake parts of Guinea after an earthquake Friday which killed 143 people and wounded 250, Conakry Radio said. The tremors, which occurred every six hours, were felt in the north-west of the West African country where the earthquake two days ago appeared to have been centred. The radio said earlier 200 people had died in the earthquake in the Gaoua area, some 300 kilometres from the capital, and that thousands had been left homeless. Earthquakes are rare in West Africa.

30 dead in Zimbabwe accident

HARARE (R) — At least 30 people were killed and 60 injured Saturday in a train accident near Zimbabwe's main coal mining town of Hwange, some 490 kilometres west of here, the Transport Ministry said. Zimbabwe's national news agency Zina quoted the ministry as saying the train, bound for Victoria Falls on the Zimbabwe-Zambia border, derailed at about 5.30 a.m. (0330 GMT). Sabotage was not suspected.

8 arrested in Guyana plot

CLEVELAND, Ohio (R) — The arrests of eight people in the United States and Canada have ended a two-month investigation into an alleged plot to overthrow the government of Guyana, according to police. The arrests followed an investigation by Ontario provincial police and U.S. customs agents into "alleged criminal activities by the Conservative Party of Guyana (CPG)", a police spokesman said in Toronto.

Strike hits Sabena

BRUSSELS (R) — The Belgian state airline Sabena cancelled all flights Saturday because of a 24-hour strike by pilots and flight technicians, an airline spokesman said.

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PLO leader keeps world guessing on next stop

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's whereabouts remained unknown Saturday, two days after he held a dramatic meeting in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Mr. Arafat was evacuated from the north Lebanese port of Tripoli last Tuesday after a six-week siege by Syrian-backed Palestinian rebels and sailed south from the Mediterranean into the Suez Canal before flying by helicopter to meet Mr. Mubarak.

He was later reported to have boarded the Greek ship Odysseas Elytis which had brought him from Tripoli and was thought to be sailing on into the Red Sea en route for North Yemen, with a possible stop on the Saudi Arabian coast.

Saudi Arabian officials made no mention of Mr. Arafat's whereabouts or whether a meeting with King Fahd was possible.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials in Jeddah said they had not received any official word on his possible arrival in the Saudi port.

"We are waiting to hear either from Arafat or from Saudi officials," one PLO official in Jeddah told Reuters in Bahrain by telephone.

The official said the PLO representative in Riyadh, Rafik Shaker Natshe, went to Jeddah to receive Mr. Arafat if he arrived.

The Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) Friday night quoted informed sources as saying Mr. Arafat had left the Greek ship Odysseas Elytis and was probably on his way to Saudi Arabia, his main financial supporter. But there was no confirmation.

The Greek ship is one of five which evacuated Mr. Arafat and his 4,000 men from northern Lebanon. Two of the ships ended their voyage at Larnaca, Cyprus, dropping off several hundreds Arafat loyalists.

The ship carrying Mr. Arafat, in a convoy of three, was said to be destined for Hodeida, North Yemen, when it sailed through the Suez Canal into the Red Sea.

Mr. Arafat's talks with Mr. Mubarak, the president of the only Arab country that has signed a treaty with Israel, were condemned by various Palestinian leaders.

Radical leader George Habash, of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, demanded Mr. Arafat's removal from the PLO leadership and branded him the "Palestinian Sadat" in reference to the former Egyptian president who made the treaty with Israel.

Palestinian refugees in Tripoli, Mr. Arafat's former Lebanese stronghold, staged a demonstration Friday in protest against his Cairo visit.

They marched through the rubble-strewn streets of the Badawi camp and demanded Mr. Arafat be put on trial.

In Damascus, the main base of his rebel foes, Palestinian leaders there denounced Mr. Arafat's move and demanded his dismissal from the PLO.

In what appeared to be the first official Saudi comment on Mr. Arafat's meeting with Mr. Mubarak, the Saudi Press Agency Saturday quoted an official source as saying Saudi Arabia's position with regard to the meeting "is in line with that of the legitimate PLO leadership."

"Government in exile"

Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying Friday that he has become convinced of the need to form a Palestinian government in exile. Mr. Arafat told the Saudi Arabian newspaper Al Yom that the projected government will shoulder the task of pursuing the Palestinian political and military struggle in the coming stage in view of the recent events in Beirut and Tripoli.

The formation of a Palestinian government in exile will be on top of a Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting to be held in Algiers in February, Mr. Arafat said.

Interviewed aboard the ship carrying him through the Suez Canal, Mr. Arafat said that the coming stage of the Palestinian struggle will witness intensive political and diplomatic moves on the Arab and international levels reaching a climax at the PNC meeting.

He also described Saudi Arabia's stand toward the PLO as positive.

experience of Egypt and its willingness to go forward for peace, is simply trying to persuade others to change their thinking," Mr. Reagan said.

He also rejected suggestions of a confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union and he repeated earlier predictions that Moscow would ultimately resume arms control negotiations in Geneva.

Moscow broke off talks on medium-range nuclear weapons in November after the arrival of new U.S. missiles in Britain and West Germany. It has also refused to set a date for the start of the next round of separate talks on long-range missiles.

Mr. Reagan defended his arms buildup, saying U.S. military strength was the only reason Moscow was talking at all.

"I believe we are further from a confrontation possibility because of the deterrent capability of the United States and our allies ... there was a far more unstable condition when we had let our own strength deteriorate," he said.

"I am prepared to say if the Soviet government wants peace, there will be no war, because I know for

a fact that no other country wants war with the Soviet Union. The ball is really in their court," he said.

Optimism on initiative

U.S. officials have voiced growing hope that the split in the PLO that forced Mr. Arafat to quit Lebanon this week may have given new life to Mr. Reagan's Middle East peace initiative.

His plan, announced on Sept. 1, 1982, called for Palestinian self-rule in association with Jordan in territories now occupied by Israel and for a halt in new Israeli settlements in the occupied lands.

Mr. Reagan said Mr. Arafat and Jordan almost reached agreement last year to allow the kingdom to enter peace talks as a representative of the Palestinians.

The apparent accord was blocked at the last minute by hard-line elements in the PLO.

"Now, I think that what Mr. Arafat is doing is talking to him [Arafat] about returning to where he was earlier, making contact with King Hussein and getting those peace negotiations, our peace proposal, underway again," Mr. Reagan said.

Asked if he thought there was a good chance of Jordan coming to

the peace table, he replied: "Yes, I do. I really do."

He conceded that Mr. Arafat had consistently refused to recognise Israel's right to exist but noted that Egypt had also once been an implacable foe of the Jewish state.

"Who is better able to try and bring another person into the peace process than someone who has made the change that Egypt has made?" he asked.

Lebanese priority receded

Mr. Reagan said his belief that the Lebanese turmoil might not be an obstacle to the overall peace process represented a shift in American perceptions.

"We've believed that settlement in Lebanon had to precede going further with that [the peace process]. I do not think that's necessarily true now," he said.

He said it was not yet clear if Mr. Arafat still was the most popular Palestinian leader, but he said it was certain the Syrian-backed PLO faction that ousted Mr. Arafat from Tripoli did not speak for most Palestinians.

Describing the Palestinian dissidents as radicals responsible for

Britain welcomed Arafat-Mubarak meeting as positive, says Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Britain told Egypt Saturday that talks between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Thursday were a positive contribution to peace in the Middle East, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said.

The ministry statement followed talks between British Ambassador Michael Weir and Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali.

"The British ambassador has conveyed his government's conviction that Arafat's talks in Cairo were a positive contribution to peace efforts in the Middle East," it said.

Mr. Ghali also saw the Italian, American and French ambassadors to brief them on the outcome of the talks between Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Arafat, who visited Cairo while his ship was sailing through the Suez Canal on its way to North Yemen.

The Egyptian statement said U.S. ambassador Nicholas Veliotes also expressed his government's "interest" in the Arafat-Mubarak talks "within the framework of Egypt's positive efforts to achieve a peaceful com-

prehensive settlement in the region."

The French and Italian ambassadors, in separate meetings, also voiced support, the statement said.

Arab analysts in Cairo speculated that Mr. Arafat's meeting with Mr. Mubarak might prompt President Reagan's 1982 Middle East peace initiative, which Mr. Mubarak strongly supports, and provide an opportunity for Washington to open a dialogue with Mr. Arafat.

It has long been the opinion of Egypt that Washington should open a dialogue with the Palestinian leader, possibly in association with Jordan in line with the Reagan plan.

Egyptian officials said Mr. Arafat was better placed to conduct such a dialogue since he has now divorced himself from the influence of radical Arab countries such as Syria and Libya and from hardliners in the PLO.

The semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram called on Israel to grasp "a rare opportunity" to act for peace in the region, instead of expressing anger over Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo.

"There is surprise and con-

sternation in Cairo after Israel's angry reaction over the Arafat-Mubarak meeting... Arafat seeks peace based on justice... he has repeatedly expressed willingness to negotiate a peaceful and permanent settlement... is this what Israel objects to now?" it asked.

Meanwhile in Damascus, radical Palestinian leader George Habash Saturday branded Mr. Arafat "the Palestinian Sadat" for his trip to Cairo and predicted the PLO leader would be ostracised like the late Egyptian president.

Mr. Habash, leader of the hard-line Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), told a press conference here that Mr. Arafat did not have to take "the Camp David option" after retreating from north Lebanon under rebel assault.

"Arafat is the Palestinian Sadat... I am sure that our Palestinian masses will take the same position towards him as the Arab masses took towards Sadat," Mr. Habash said.

"Every Palestinian... must answer the question: Are they supporting the Palestinian Sadat or are they supporting the revolution?" he said.

Bethlehem begins Christmas festivities amid fears of Israeli terrorist attacks

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank (R) — The Latin patriarch of Jerusalem led the annual procession from Jerusalem to Bethlehem Saturday to open Christmas celebrations under massive security by the Israeli army.

Clad in black robes and scarlet skullcap and escorted by mounted police, Monsignor Giacomo Beltritti was greeted in Manger Square by Mayor Elias Freij and other local dignitaries in the Palestinian town where Christ was born.

Marching bands from Arab scout troops, complete with bagpipes, performed in the brilliant winter sunshine as Israeli troops in battle gear stood guard on rooftops, on roads leading to Manger Square and around the Church of the Nativity.

The army says it is concerned about a series of recent grenade attacks against Christian and Muslim targets. A nun and a Muslim clergyman were injured in two grenade attacks on a Greek Orthodox monastery and a mosque this week.

A shadowy Israeli group calling itself "Terror Against Terror" claimed responsibility for the attacks, as well as for about a dozen other grenades placed at Christian and Muslim sites in recent weeks.

Despite the attacks, the Israeli Tourism Ministry said some 12,000 pilgrims from around the world had come to celebrate Christmas in Bethlehem, up from 8,000 last year.

Thousands of tourists, West Bank residents, and Christian pilgrims jammed into Bethlehem. A huge Christmas tree dominated the square, which serves as a parking lot during the rest of the year, and streetlights were festooned with streamers.

Among the visitors were several hundred sailors from the U.S. Sixth Fleet, which has been stationed off the Lebanese coast.

This is the first of three Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem. The Orthodox community — Syrians, Greeks and Copts — holds Christmas on Jan. 6, and the Armenian church celebrates 12 days later.

Muslim-Christian meeting warns of Israeli attacks, page 3

Origins of Christmas lie in pagan rituals, page 8

Bomb injures 10, wrecks Paris hotel

PARIS (R) — Police have been ordered to step up vigilance on the streets of Paris over Christmas following a bomb blast which wrecked one of the capital's most exclusive restaurants Friday night, an Interior Ministry spokesman said.

Ten diners were injured by the blast at the Grand Vefour Restaurant in central Paris.

One of the victims, a French woman, lost a leg and might have to have the other amputated, police said.

The other injured, hurt less seriously, included the Frenchwoman's husband, five Americans

and two Japanese.

The bomb, which had been packed with metal fragments, was placed outside one of the restaurant's windows.

No organisation has claimed responsibility for placing the bomb.

In a similar attack last month, another exclusive Paris restaurant, the L'Orée du Bois, was wrecked and 20 people were injured.

Friday's blast smashed the restaurant's seats, broke chairs and ripped curtains. Table clothes were splattered with blood and

floor strewn with broken glass.

Windows of a nearby theatre bar were also smashed.

Secretary of state for public security, Joseph Franchesch, who visited the restaurant after the blast, said it was very difficult to prevent incidents such as Friday night's.

"I am determined to head the enquiry with diligence... but I do not hide the fact that this [type of incident] causes us problems," he told reporters.

Paris police could not check every dustbin in the city, Mr. Franchesch said.

widespread death and destruction in Tripoli, he said: "I cannot believe that the millions of Palestinians are going to choose that leadership."

U.N. cannot replace MNF

He also said he would welcome replacement of the four-nation peacekeeping force now in Lebanon with a United Nations contingent, but he doubted if a credible U.N. force was possible.

"I would have wished from the very first for a U.N. force. But what has prevented it? The Soviet Union veto," he said.

He said U.N. military observers in southern Lebanon proved to be literally helpless because of restrictions placed on them in order to win Soviet support.

About 1,000 U.S. marines are serving in the Multi-National Force (MNF) in Beirut along with troops from France, Italy and Britain.

On Central America, Mr. Reagan said recent conciliatory gestures by Nicaragua, including a limited amnesty offer for opponents and a pledge to hold elections, were inadequate.

"I think there is more they can do than they have done," he said.

South African forces continue anti-rebel action in Angola

PRETORIA (R) — South African forces Saturday continued a limited campaign in Angola against guerrillas fighting for the independence of Namibia (South West Africa), informed defence sources said.

The offensive, in which five of Pretoria's soldiers have died and one is missing, was first disclosed by South Africa Friday. The sources said no further details would be officially released at present.

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South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

South Africa says it is trying to pre-empt the annual assault into Namibia from Angolaby SWAPO which traditionally begins about now — the start of the rainy season when sprouting vegetation provides good cover for the guerrillas.

South Africa's announcement of an offensive into Angola followed Angolan radio reports of fierce fighting between South African and Angolan units.

The fighting was reported less than a week after Angola and SWAPO rejected an offer by Pretoria at the United Nations to withdraw all its forces from southern Angola.

Nakasone presses ahead with new administration

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Mr. Nakasone made the pledge in a statement earlier Saturday in which he also accepted the major responsibility for the poor showing of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in the Dec. 18 general election.

"I think the major cause of the defeat was that I have failed to put a clear end to the so-called Tanaka issue and that I have dissatisfied the nation over my posture towards political ethics," Mr. Nakasone said.

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Qawasmeh supports Arafat's Egypt visit

AMMAN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak were welcomed Saturday by the expelled Palestinian mayor of the West Bank town of Hebron.

Expelled mayor Fahd Al-Qawasmeh said in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency Petra, he hoped Mr. Arafat's Cairo visit would be a "step on the road of the struggle of the Palestinian people to ensure their legitimate rights and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil."

Mr. Qawasmeh said the welcome Mr. Arafat received from Mr. Mubarak contradicted the "spirit and letter of the Camp David agreement, which aimed at suppressing the inalienable rights of the Palestinians."

Mr. Qawasmeh was expelled under an Israeli government order in May 1981 after a building in Hebron used by Israeli settlers had been blown up by Palestinian commandos.

The U.S.-sponsored Camp David accord led to a separate peace treaty between Israel and Egypt signed in 1979.

Mr. Arafat's Cairo trip also indicated Egypt's recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, Mr. Qawasmeh said.

Expressing confidence in the PLO leadership with Mr. Arafat as its symbol, as well as Egypt's "historical role," he said the Arafat-Mubarak meeting reflected Egyptian efforts to return to its "true position as leader of the Arab Nation."

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Beirut bomb scare triggers false alarm

BEIRUT (R) — A bomb-sniffing dog caused what appeared to be a false alarm Saturday when a car parked close to U.S. Marines' positions near Beirut airport was declared to be packed with explosives.

A U.S. Marines spokesman, Captain Wayne Jones, said a team of Marines had wanted to remove a 1956 Chrysler which had been parked on the coast road for several days and took along a bomb handling team and a sniffer dog.

He said there was nothing visible to indicate the car was rigged with explosives but the "dog alerted on the vehicle."

He said the car could have been hit by bullets and the dog, trained to detect the smallest trace of nitrate, might have reacted.

He said the matter had been turned over to the Lebanese army which took charge of removing the vehicle.

The army command Saturday imposed strict measures in Beirut to prevent terrorist attacks during Christmas, including on all public gatherings. It issued a reminder that a night-long curfew was still in effect.

Security sources said French troops of the Multi-National Force (MNF) abandoned some of their positions Saturday and handed them over to the Lebanese army.

French Defence Minister Charles Hernu, who arrived Friday, said he would be looking into security arrangements around French positions.

Mr. Hernu flew by helicopter to the French aircraft carrier Clemenceau. He will be spending Christmas eve with French troops before returning home Sunday.

French and U.S. Marines prepared to celebrate Christmas under the threat of attack.

The Muslim fundamentalist "Islamic Jihad" organisation on Wednesday issued an ultimatum threatening the American and French troops with a "real earthquake" unless they pulled out within 10 days.

The Lebanese army Friday issued a communique ordering all commercial and fishing vessels to keep away from American warships off the coast and from the coastal area adjacent to the Marines' base.

France, Britain to retain role in MNF, page 2

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MIDDLE EAST

France, Britain will maintain role in Multinational force

BEIRUT (R) — Despite heightened concern for the safety of foreign troops in Beirut, the British and French defence ministers have reaffirmed their government's determination not to pull their men out of Lebanon.

Ministers from the two countries gave the pledges Friday during Christmas visits to their contingents in the Beirut Multinational Force.

French Defence Minister Charles Hernu was sent by President Francois Mitterrand after a truck-bomb attack on a French regimental command post on Wednesday killed a soldier and injured a dozen and caused heavy casualties among Lebanese civilians nearby.

British Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine, on a 70-minute visit to the 110-man British force, told reporters: "We do not even want to talk about pulling out."

Italian President Sandro Pertini said in Rome, however, that the

Italian contingent of the force should be withdrawn as it no longer had any clear significance after the departure of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and his men.

The British troops have suffered no casualties since arriving last February. But France's 2,000-strong force has lost 82 men and the latest truck-bombing was followed by a threat the French troops say they are not ignoring.

It was an ultimatum from the "Islamic Jihad" Islamic holy war group to French and American troops to leave Lebanon within 10 days or be hit by "a real earthquake."

The group is believed responsible for all the bloody truck-bombings in Lebanon this year

against American, French and Israeli forces, and for bombing mainly French and American targets in Kuwait earlier this month.

The 1,500 U.S. Marines, already pinned down in a heavily fortified base at Beirut airport, have not commented on the threat. Their security has been under heavy scrutiny and criticism in the United States, but President Reagan said this week they would stay till their mission was accomplished or the Lebanese government sought their departure.

In a new security measure for the U.S. contingent, the Lebanese army Friday night ordered all commercial and fishing vessels to keep away from American warships off the coast and from the coastal area adjacent to the Marines' base.

Mr. Hernu, who is making an on-the-spot study of the security of the positions held by French troops, told the Lebanese defence minister France would not bow to

blackmail or be intimidated by attacks on its forces. Lebanese officials said.

But he and French chief of staff Gen. Jannou Lacaze held immediate talks with Defence Minister Issam Khoury and army chief of staff Gen. Ibrahim Tannous on increasing security for the French soldiers.

Mr. Hernu, who also delivered a message from Mr. Mitterrand to Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, announced he would spend Christmas eve with French officers and paratroopers.

Mr. Hernu met Lebanese President Amin Gemayel Friday shortly after arriving in Beirut.

Mr. Hernu handed Mr. Gemayel a message from President Mitterrand and told reporters he had come at the urgent request of Gemayel and Gen. Lacaze to discuss increased security for France's 2,000-strong contingent.

Polisario rebels seize 3 S. Korean sailors

SEOUL (R) — Polisario guerrillas seized three South Korean sailors from a trawler they attacked in the Atlantic ocean off northwest Africa Saturday, a foreign ministry official here said.

Another five Koreans aboard the ship, Ain Ouallid, were missing.

Sixteen crew members, including eight Moroccans, were rescued by a Moroccan patrol boat.

the official said, quoting a report from the South Korean consulate general in Las Palmas.

The guerrillas machinegunned and threw hand grenades at the Ain Ouallid, jointly owned by a South Korean and a Moroccan company.

The trawler caught fire but the blaze was put out by the patrol boat.

Israeli diplomat alleges Malta assassination bid

VALETTA, MALTA (R) — Israeli charge d'affaires Esther Millo said Saturday she had been the victim of an assassination attempt in Valletta Friday night.

A gunman fired five shots as she sat in her car outside a florist's shop, but her only injuries were minor cuts from flying glass.

Ms. Millo, who is in her early fifties, said she had been about to start her car in a busy shopping district when another vehicle drew alongside.

A man, described by Ms. Millo as having a dark complexion with a heavy moustache, fired five shots, which shattered her car windows.

Ms. Millo said she chased her attacker's car but lost it in heavy pre-Christmas traffic.

She was later treated to cuts in her face and hand.

"I must be the luckiest woman in Malta," said Millo, who has been in Malta about 18 months.

Greece, Cyprus promise to reverse Cyprus declaration

ATHENS (R) — Greece and Cyprus have decided to intensify diplomatic efforts to reverse the unilateral proclamation of a Turkish-Cypriot state and to find a fair solution to the Cyprus problem.

Speaking to reporters after three hours of talks with visiting Cyprus President Spyros Kyprianou, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu said the two sides reached a unanimous decision to use all diplomatic means "to reverse the declaration of independence of a pseudo-state in northern Cyprus by Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş last month."

"We will use all means at our disposal to reverse this decision and will make any effort necessary in many capitals and international organisations," Mr. Papandreu said.

Last month the Turkish sector, saying there was no chance of a settlement because of Greek intransigence, declared independence.

Mr. Papandreu declined to elaborate on the details of the diplomatic campaign his government intended to launch, but said the efforts would be within the framework of the U.N. resolution which condemned the Turkish-Cypriot state.

He said he and Mr. Kyprianou had decided on what practical steps should be taken to reverse the declaration of independence.

The ministers of foreign affairs of the two countries, Yannis Haralambopoulos of Greece and George Iacovou of Cyprus, also took part in the talks at the prime minister's office.

Mr. Kyprianou, who arrived from Nicosia Thursday, said the two sides examined all aspects of the Cyprus problem and reached concrete decisions for the solution of the issue.

No sign of settlement in W. Sahara dispute

LONDON (R) — The Western Sahara conflict, where Polisario guerrillas report a renewed offensive by Moroccan government forces, has become one of the main issues of contention in Africa, at times disrupting fragile political unity in the continent.

Differences over nationalist attempts to win independence for the former Spanish colony have twice brought the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to the brink of disintegration.

After nearly a century of colonial rule and following strong international pressure, Spain ceded the mineral-rich Western Sahara to Morocco and Mauritania in February 1976.

The North African countries, eager to exploit the phosphate mines in the territory, carved it up between them. Morocco took the northern two-thirds and Mauritania the south.

But they were quickly confronted by determined guerrillas who proclaimed the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), SADR's El-Hamra and Rio de Oro (Polisario), backed by Algeria and Libya, launched a war against both countries.

Western Sahara is an arid zone of 266,000 square kilometres along the Atlantic coast between Morocco and Mauritania. A poor region, it is often ravaged by drought.

The area's population, of mainly Arab and Berber descent and largely nomadic and Muslim, was estimated by Spain at 75,000 in 1974, but the Polisario says it is about a million.

SADR, while keeping up military operations, launched a political offensive to win international support for its independence claim.

The first to yield under the Polisario's pressure was Mauritania, its economy severely affected by the protracted war. Mauritania signed a peace pact with the Polisario in August 1979 relinquishing any claim to Western Sahara.

It pulled out of the war despite angry protests from Morocco which had deployed troops in Mauritania under a defence pact. Morocco, determined to hold

on to the territory, immediately took control of the area vacated by Mauritania.

The dispute over the territory put a severe strain on relations between Morocco and Algeria, which provided the Polisario with bases, military aid and political support.

The Polisario — some estimates put its strength at no more than 6,000 — adopted hit-and-run tactics to harass Moroccan garrisons in the province, sometimes inflicting heavy losses.

Desperate to stem the attacks, which at times spilled into Morocco proper, Rabat in 1980 erected the "Hassan wall", a 450-kilometre earthenwork defence system named after King Hassan.

Interspersed with minefields, the wall stretched from Ras El-Khanfra, at the foot of Morocco's Quarkiz Mountains, southwards around the mining area of Bu Craa and back up to El Aaiun on the Atlantic coast.

Although the wall had an effect in stemming Polisario attacks, the front managed to maintain military pressure. In 1981 it briefly captured the garrison of Guelia Zemmur.

But SADR seems to have made a bigger impact by its political struggle than on the battlefield.

About 50 countries have recognised the SADR republic, some giving its envoys ambassadorial status.

A dispute over recognising the Polisario nearly buried the O.A.U., which SADR was admitted in 1982.

An attempt to convene an OAU summit in Libya in 1982 was torpedoed over SADR's presence and in June 1983 the African group was saved at the last moment after delegates at another meeting agreed to put the Western Sahara issue aside.

The conflict has defied several mediation attempts. While Morocco sees it as a bilateral dispute with Algeria, Algiers maintains that any solution should be worked out between Rabat and the Polisario.

The OAU has offered to supervise "a referendum of self-determination but King Hassan insists his country should organise it to confirm the Moroccan identity of the Sahara."

Iran claims arrest of 100 guerrillas

TEHRAN (R) — A hundred members of the anti-government Mujahedin-e-Khalq guerrilla organisation were arrested recently as they held a meeting in Tehran, the national news agency IRNA reported Saturday.

The agency said the commander of the paramilitary revolutionary guards, Mohsen Rezaei, announced the arrests Friday at a prayer ceremony in the southern town of Zaranj.

Rezaei said security forces also seized five radio sets capable of communicating with Europe, it added. No further details were given.

The Mujahedin-e-Khalq supported Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, but later broke with the clergy-led followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and waged a campaign of violence against revolutionary leaders in 1981.

Gen. Zia says Bhutto's party will never rule Pakistan again

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Pakistan People's Party (PPP), left-wing movement founded by executed Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, will not be allowed to rule again, martial law President Zia-ul-Haq said Friday night.

In his most direct indictment to date of Pakistan's main opposition party, Gen. Zia told journalists the PPP brought the country to the brink of crisis during its 5-1/2 years in power and should not be allowed to do so again.

PPP members, whom Gen. Zia barred from contesting elections for five years after he deposed Mr. Bhutto in a coup in 1977, will now be banned for another 10 years from any polls, the official APP news agency quoted him as saying in Lahore.

Gen. Zia's comments, two days after he said any new government would have to continue his Isl-

amisation programme, were the clearest sign to date that he foresaw no fundamental change after elections promised by March 1985, political sources said.

Gen. Zia, who has twice cancelled previously promised polls, announced on Aug. 12 he would hold elections by March 1985 but left the exact date and nature of the polls vague. He promised Friday night there would be no third cancellation.

The nine-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), of which the PPP is the largest member, launched a protest campaign for immediate elections two days after Gen. Zia's announcement.

The protests, which were often violent in the southern province of Sind, died down in mid-October and Gen. Zia has slowly resumed campaigning for the controlled form of government he calls Isl-

amic democracy.

He repeated his view that Pakistan should not have a Western democracy but an Islamic system, under which electoral committees would choose only "good and right-minded" candidates to run for office.

He said he had not yet decided whether to seek a court order banning the PPP altogether and said party members were first barred from polls for five years because he did not expect martial law to last that long.

Gen. Zia imposed martial law in July 1977 and banned all political parties in 1979, the same year Mr. Bhutto was hanged.

He indicated he would continue his campaign to drum up support for his model of Islamic government, saying he planned a large public rally next month like the one he held on Wednesday in Multan.

TV & RADIO

Sunday
JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
16:30 Korean
17:00 Cartoons
17:30 Local Series
18:00 Local Series
18:30 Local Series
19:00 Local Series
19:30 Local Series
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local Series
21:00 Arabic Variety
21:30 Arabic Variety
22:00 Arabic Variety
22:30 News Summary

FOREIGN CHANNEL
18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Yes Minister
21:00 Towards 2000
21:30 The Citadel
22:00 News in English
22:30 Best Seller: Thora Birch - Episode 7

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& party on 95.60 KHz. SW

07:00 Morning Show
07:30 News Bulletin
08:00 News Summary
08:30 Morning Show
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VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260, KHz. 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 & 15210

06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour, news summaries, daily business report, science and medicine, sports reports, VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary analysis; features 17:00 News 17:30 News 18:00 News 18:30 News 19:00 News 19:30 News 20:00 News 20:30 News 21:00 News 21:30 News 22:00 News 22:30 News 23:00 News 23:30 News 24:00 News

For Monday
JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
17:30 Korean
18:00 Cartoons
18:30 Children's programme
19:00 Start Here
19:30 Children's programme
20:00 Programmes review
20:30 Programme on Music
21:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Local Series
22:00 Local Series
22:30 Local Series
23:00 Local Series
23:30 Local Series
24:00 Local Series

FOREIGN CHANNEL
18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
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07:00 Morning Show
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VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260, KHz. 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 & 15210 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 The Painter of Signs 06:45 Letter from London 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 Commentary 07:15 On the Feast of Stephen 07:20 World News 07:29 Sports Special 07:35 World News 07:44 World News 07:53 World News 08:02 World News 08:11 World News 08:20 World News 08:29 World News 08:38 World News 08:47 World News 08:56 World News 09:05 World News 09:14 World News 09:23 World News 09:32 World News 09:41 World News 09:50 World News 09:59 World News 10:08 World News 10:17 World News 10:26 World News 10:35 World News 10:44 World News 10:53 World News 11:02 World News 11:11 World News 11:20 World News 11:29 World News 11:38 World News 11:47 World News 11:56 World News 12:05 World News 12:14 World News 12:23 World News 12:32 World News 12:41 World News 12:50 World News 12:59 World News 13:08 World News 13:17 World News 13:26 World News 13:35 World News 13:44 World News 13:53 World News 14:02 World News 14:11 World News 14:20 World News 14:29 World News 14:38 World News 14:47 World News 14:56 World News 15:05 World News 15:14 World News 15:23 World News 15:32 World News 15:41 World News 15:50 World News 15:59 World News 16:08 World News 16:17 World News 16:26 World News 16:35 World News 16:44 World News 16:53 World News 17:02 World News 17:11 World News 17:20 World News 17:29 World News 17:38 World News 17:47 World News 17:56 World News 18:05 World News 18:14 World News 18:23 World News 18:32 World News 18:41 World News 18:50 World News 18:59 World News 19:08 World News 19:17 World News 19:26 World News 19:35 World News 19:44 World News 19:53 World News 20:02 World News 20:11 World News 20:20 World News 20:29 World News 20:38 World News 20:47 World News 20:56 World News 21:05 World News 21:14 World News 21:23 World News 21:32 World News 21:41 World News 21:50 World News 21:59 World News 22:08 World News 22:17 World News 22:26 World News 22:35 World News 22:44 World News 22:53 World News 23:02 World News 23:11 World News 23:20 World News 23:29 World News 23:38 World News 23:47 World News 23:56 World News 24:05 World News

WHAT'S GOING ON

CULTURAL CENTRES
Closed Tuesdays, Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS
Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1.30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1.30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2.00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

MUSEUMS
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old, also 18th century from Madaba and Jerash (1-10 to 19th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquity of Jordan, Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

CHURCHES
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwaidah, 37450.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 41559.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71731.
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at St. Stephen's Baptist School in Shmeisat, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES
06:00 Sunrise
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BBC WORLD SERVICE
630, 720, 1413 KHz

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AMMAN AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.

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VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 & 15210 KHz

06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour, news summaries, daily business report, science and medicine, sports reports, VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary analysis; features 17:00 News 17:30 News 18:00 News 18:30 News 19:00 News 19:30 News 20:00 News 20:30 News 21:00 News 2

Middle East events reflect on Christmas celebrations here

By Nafeh Abu Nab
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Christmas is a time of peace and enjoyment. However due to the latest developments in the Middle East, this year's Christmas might be the most tense one for international residents in Jordan.

The French and American communities in Jordan don't seem to have scheduled any big events, or if they did, their officials didn't want to disclose it to the press. "Some French are staying here, some are going to France and others are going out of Jordan but not necessarily to France," said Patrice Paoli, the French press attaché.

The German society had a Christmas bazaar at Schneller School on Monday Dec. 12, and are planning to have a preacher from the West Bank to hold Christmas for their Protestant congregation and a local priest to hold mass for their Catholic congregation.

"We have no Christmas tree but we have a small olive wood relief representing the birth of Christ for Christmas," said Paul Peter Hoffer, a German who planned nothing more than a small feast with friends to celebrate Christmas.

"I'll probably just have dinner with my husband and some friends," said Judy Reiter, an American from Washington D.C. who arrived recently into Jordan.

"I am going to England for two weeks to celebrate Christmas with family and friends," said Phil Robins, a British native.

Some friends are going to Petra, and the Anglican chaplain Keith Frazer Smith is giving a big lunch party, Robins said.

"I don't want to know about the planned events in Jordan, otherwise I'll feel bad for missing them," Robins added.

Phillip Carbone, an American working in the U.S. embassy, and his family seem to be excited about spending Christmas in Jordan.

"I've made a lot of Christmas cookies and cakes," said Lilian, Carbone's wife.

"We're gonna have Christmas

socks for everyone with names on 'em," Christopher, Carbone's eight-year-old son, said excitedly. The Carbone have an artificial Christmas tree which they brought with them from the U.S.

The American School has planned a trip to Switzerland for Christmas, according to Mrs. Carbone.

"We are going to sing Christmas Carols with friends," said Anne Counsell who has a Christmas tree and "lots of presents" for friends. She is planning on having a turkey dinner her boyfriend, Bill Lyons, and some close friends.

"I just want to have a quiet peaceful Christmas," she added.

The Swiss community had a Santa Claus party for 30 Swiss children, at the house of George Birchler, consul of Switzerland in Amman.

Presents from Switzerland were distributed to the kids. "Christian families in the Soviet Union celebrate Christmas individually," said Guehnadi Gatilov, of the Soviet Union. "but the New Year is celebrated officially, by everybody."

"Religion and state are separate," he added.

For the 3,000 Filipinos in Jordan there were no plans for a big party, or any massive congregations. Each is going to celebrate Christmas on his own.

"I am having a small party for my close friends and relatives," said Emmanuel Contreras, a Filipino resident in Jordan. "We are going to sing Christmas Carols and exchange gifts. That's part of our tradition," he added.

Many families have also planned to spend Christmas at Petra. The Petra Forum Hotel has 100 rooms and it is almost fully booked.

"We have a programme for three days including plans to explore the old city of Petra, luncheons and entertainment for the nights," said the hotel's representative.

Santa Claus will also be there for the kids.

"It will all be celebrated in a family tradition," he added.

27 graduate at Nazzal Centre

AMMAN (Petra) — A graduation ceremony of 27 students was organised at the Nazzal Community Centre under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Sarvath. Princess Sarvath also opened the bazaar organised by the centre and toured its various sections. The ceremony was attended by Minister of Social Development In'am Al Mufti.

Labour under-secretary leaves for ALO meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Labour Tayseer Abdul Jabbar left Amman Friday to take part in the board meetings of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) which will start Saturday in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

Malhas holds talks with Chinese medical team

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Zuhair Malhas Saturday conferred with the visiting Chinese medical team and briefed them on medical services in Jordan.

Dr. Malhas expressed his hope for continuing exchange of mutual visits and expertise between Jordan and China in health affairs.

The Chinese team expressed admiration for the high level of Jordan's health services and it was

decided that a Jordanian medical delegation will visit the People's Republic of China early next year to get acquainted with the Chinese experience in health services.

The Chinese team Friday visited Petra and the southern region of Jordan.

They were accompanied on their visit by Public Relations Director at the Minister of Health Tariq Na'im.

Basma opens women's centre

RUSAIFA (Petra) — Her Highness Princess Basma Thursday opened at the Working Women's Society in Rusafa, a centre for producing wool fabrics and a kindergarten.

Princess Basma also distributed diplomas to 16 female trainees on sewing and weaving. The trainee graduates had received theoretical and applied instructions in this

field for 11 months. President of the society, Samira Salman, expressed appreciation of Princess Basma's support for the project and her donation of sewing machines and children's toys to the society.

She also thanked Rusafa municipality for granting a piece of land for the society to construct a building on.

Pakistanis celebrate Jinnah's birthday anniversary

Pakistan Sunday celebrates the anniversary of the birth of its founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who was born in 1876 and died in 1948. On the occasion of Mr. Jinnah's birthday anniversary, herebelow is the speech he delivered after receiving the first Jordanian envoy to Pakistan, in which he expressed the affection and regards of the people of Pakistan to King Abdullah and the people of Jordan.

In reply to the speech by His Excellency Mohammad Pasha Al Shuraki, minister of state, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of Jordan on Dec. 24, 1947, the Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah said: "It is a great pleasure and indeed a great privilege for me to welcome your excellency and your colleagues and to receive through you a message of good wishes and congratulations from His Majesty the King of Jordan on the achievement of independence by Pakistan. I assure your excellency that my government and the people of Pakistan greatly appreciate the gracious message of your August sovereignty and the affection and regard expressed by the people of Jordan for their brethren in this country. I need hardly assure your excellency that the government and people of Pakistan heartily reciprocate the noble sentiments so generously expressed through your excellency's mission. "In the struggle for freedom which the Muslims of this great subcontinent had to face, the thought that we always carried with us



Leading religious figures representing Islamic and Christian communities meet in Amman Friday (Petra photo)

Islamic-Christian meeting warns of Israeli terrorist actions in Holy Land

AMMAN (Petra) — An Islamic-Christian meeting held in Amman Friday has warned the Muslim and Christian worlds of the danger inherent in Israel's illegal practices and terrorist actions in the occupied Arab lands and the holy places.

The meeting was called to discuss recurrent Zionist attacks on Christian and Islamic holy places and the recent bombs that went off at a mosque and a church in Al 'Ezariyeh town in a Jerusalem suburb injuring the mosque's Muezzin and one of the church's nuns.

Such attacks perpetrated by Zionists are attempts to shake the steadfastness of the Arab population in the occupied lands and weaken their resistance, a statement issued at the end of the meeting said.

The statement said that Israel's pursuance of its settlement policies, its support for the settlers' attacks and terrorist actions directed against the indigenous population, are part of Zionists' attempts to Judaize the holy city of Jerusalem and impose a Jewish character on Arab land.

The meeting decided to set up a joint committee to be entrusted with tasks aimed at providing protection on Islamic and Christian holy places and to expose Israel's actions to the world public opinion.

According to the statement the participants in the meeting also discussed the various dangers threatening the holy places in general and the foreign nations' attempts to strike the Palestinian resistance in a bid to divert the world's attention from the real problem in Palestine.

The participants which grouped leading Christian and Muslim figures and intellectuals decided also to send a cable to the U.N. Secretary General, the president of the Security Council, the World Council of Churches and other organisations, explaining the dangers that emanate from Israel's continued attacks on Christian and Islamic holy sites in the occupied Arab lands.

The cables appeal to the organisations to do everything possible to put an end to Israel's criminal and terrorist actions.

Dr. Touq said that negligence is a simplified method of abuse for it is not done directly by parents but other persons in the community.

A perfect example on negligence is over-running children by vehicles.

He said that statistics in Jordan for such cases, that involve children below the age of 15, shows that in 1981 it reached 66.6 per cent, 1982 it reached 64.9 per cent and until June 1983 it reached 65 per cent.

He added that according to Al Bashir Hospital statistics on the types of parent abuse, most of them are burns, severe wounds, drownings, poisoning and electrical shocks.

Dr. Touq emphasised the need of proper care for the children and the proper way to bring them up "because they represent the future of our country".

He said that unorthodox methods of bringing up children are bound to cause many social problems and lead to psychological and physical difficulties for the youth in the future.

Dr. Zahran said that in the light of the repeated recommendations of international and local conferences on social defence, as well as in the light of social defence research conducted in Jordan in 1979 and through his personal experience, he recommended the establishment of a public institution for social defence of a legal nature and of an independent budget to take care of children and protect them.

Dr. Muhayyeddin Touq of the University of Jordan who also delivered a speech at the seminar spoke on child abuse and neglect.

He pointed out that child death in the Third World is partly due to the parents' negligence. "The type of motherhood is strongly connected with the child safety, physically and psychologically, because mothers' concern clearly reflects on the kind of nutrition and cleanliness that bestows upon the child."

He added that parents who abuse their children are not familiar with the essential principles

good enough to convey my most grateful thanks and the thanks of the people of Pakistan to His Majesty the King of Jordan, was a source of great encouragement and inspiration. It is all the more gratifying, therefore, for the people of Pakistan to receive this message on the occasion of their independence.

"I have no doubt that your excellency's mission will further cement the bonds of brotherhood and affection which exist and subsist between our two peoples. Islam is to us the source of our very life and existence and it has linked our cultural and traditional past so closely with the Arab World that there need be no doubt whatsoever about our fullest sympathy for the Arab cause."

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"I have no doubt that your excellency's mission will further cement the bonds of brotherhood and affection which exist and subsist between our two peoples. Islam is to us the source of our very life and existence and it has linked our cultural and traditional past so closely with the Arab World that there need be no doubt whatsoever about our fullest sympathy for the Arab cause."

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Jordan aims to improve agricultural production, marketing, says Dudin

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "An honest image of the current situation regarding agriculture in Jordan is necessary to eliminate bottlenecks and improve production and marketing", said Minister of Agriculture Marwan Dudin in an interview with the Jordan Times this week.



Marwan Dudin

Asked about the current National Consultative Council (NCC) debates on agricultural policy, the minister replied that the constraints affecting agriculture should be reviewed to try and improve the situation, although an ideal situation can never be achieved in a business such as agriculture due to external factors such as the weather, water supply and fluctuating markets.

Mr. Dudin also said that although farmers have adopted modern techniques in ploughing and irrigation, they are still traditional regarding the crops grown and are resisting crop diversification in favour of producing established crops such as tomatoes, cucumbers and eggplants.

The minister said that the situation is improving and that many farmers are increasingly aware that tomato production in high season is less profitable than in the winter and are adjusting production and crop varieties accordingly.

Mr. Dudin, however, feels that the government should not interfere "to a large extent" in this matter because crop protection, research and extension facilities are widely available to the farmers, who are now beginning to learn from their previous mistakes and are taking the initiative to improve their situation.

The minister emphasised the difficulties that would arise if the ministry tried to enforce diversification or farm practices saying that the manpower and transport costs would be very high in addition to undermining the free enterprise of the farmers.

Mr. Dudin went on to discuss the positive aspects of government intervention in agriculture which protect farmers, mentioning fixed prices for produce and the control of imports to ensure the sale of local produce. He praised the activities of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO), the Jordan Valley Farmers Association (JVFA), and the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) in their efforts to ensure "good deals" for the Jordanian farmer.

The minister said that the establishment of the Jordan Processing and Marketing Company was a measure to regulate agribusiness by controlled grading and packaging which would ensure quality

control for the home market and for export and give the farmer a better price for superior quality produce. In addition, Mr. Dudin said, plus could be absorbed by the processing plants and that the farmers still have a choice where they sell their produce.

Asked why the selling of shares in the company had been very slow, Mr. Mr. Dudin replied that the timing of the shares being released on the market was bad due to low money transfers and the Gulf countries restricting their foreign labour which froze capital transfer because of the uncertain situation.

He added that although the farmers themselves had not bought a large number of the shares this was partly due to the lack of available funds at that time in the season but that merchants and banks had been purchasing shares.

Mr. Dudin outlined important projects currently under discussion in the Higher Agricultural Council, notably studies on growing apples and increasing wheat production. He said that the potential for cultivating both wheat and apples is good as they require comparatively little irrigation from artesian wells.

He said that there are experimental stations in the Ma'an and Shobak areas in southern Jordan, that have produced excellent results in growing apples although studies are still preliminary.

On the subject of what the minister said that feasibility studies will be carried out by the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) on water beds in the southern, mid, northern and eastern areas of Jordan to test the potential for irrigation. He added that although the initial investment will be very high, the expected returns should be good.

Mr. Dudin concluded by saying "The National Plan for agriculture should be an imaginative plan taking into account the high initial costs that would be entailed (at the beginning) and should use the knowledge and expertise of Jordanians."

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Suddenly a bright smile lit up

The girl made some motions of joining the queue but was looking expectantly at the clerk. And sure enough, the clerk had transformed himself into the most jovial man in the world and it would have taken some coffee-reading to locate the glass of tea he has just had, seconds before. "How are you?" he greeted the newcomer and beckoned her to go forward. With a triumphant smile at the rest of us, she glided forward. "I am fine," she whispered at the clerk in a low voice. He turned his head toward the person of her attention was about to melt. "Will you register these letters for me please?" The clerk almost split his lips smiling and said: "Of course, lady," and took the proffered letters. The way he posted the registered number labels, wrote the certificates of registration and handed them over the counter really consoled me. If

"Well, that is what I'm trying to do," the clerk said, obviously pleased with the intervention. "Didn't you see, brother, it was a girl and she deserved priority?" But the middle-aged man was smart. "My eyesight is not that good nowadays," he excused himself.

The half-dinar note was almost thrown at the boy and I immediately thought of myself ending up in the nearest police station as a witness to a real brawl. No such luck. The boy just looked at the clerk, picked the note and out he went.

The relief I had on reaching the counter vanished the moment the clerk handed me the stamps. They were of 60,40,10 and 5 fils, which meant I would have to spend one hour affixing five stamps on each envelope. 275 stamps in all for 55 letters.

I was so much engrossed in my work it startled me to get a bump on the back and the immediate

Well, my photograph was there and it should satisfy her. I said, "But you are not the sender as

I felt like tearing my hair, and to engage my hands otherwise pulled out my packet of cigarettes from the pocket. And then it dawned on me that the "piece of paper" I gave my friend with my telephone number was the computer ticket

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SPORTS

Cup final dilemma for Australian tennis captain

MELBOURNE (R)—Australia's non-playing Davis Cup tennis captain, Neale Fraser remains in a dilemma over his choice of singles players for the final against Sweden starting at Kooyong here on Monday.

Fraser said the singles berths were more open this week than at any time in his 13 years as captain, while Sweden are in the contrastingly settled position of having in-form Mats Wilander and Joakim Nystrom as their likely singles pair.

Australia will use Paul McNamee and Mark Edmondson as their doubles combination, but Fraser's problem is whom to pick for the singles from John Fitzgerald, Pat Cash and Edmondson.

Fitzgerald was the hero of Australia's unexpected semifinal victory over France in Sydney, but has suffered severe lapses of form this week.

Cash has a fiery nature as he showed in match practice sessions marked by outbursts of temper, but he demonstrated fine touch and accuracy on Saturday.

The experienced Edmondson continues to underline the power of his serve-and-volley game which could give him a singles spot with Cash.

Fitzgerald's ability to rise to the

big occasion, as shown with his magnificent win over French Open Champion Yannick Noah in the semifinal, is a factor in his favour. On the other hand, Fraser's reliance on current form could tell against Fitzgerald.

Australia seek their third Davis Cup final victory under Fraser's captaincy following the 5-0 rout of the United States in Cleveland in 1973, and their triumph over Italy in Sydney in 1977.

Yet Sweden, aiming for their second cup win, have seen their prospects soar since arriving in Australia as the underdogs with little grass court form.

The Swedes have been boosted by landing Australia's two major grass court titles — Wilander taking the Australian Open and Nystrom winning the New South Wales Open.

Swedish captain Hans Olsson said he was confident his team would win, while Fraser said he expected Australia to take the first three clashes — and the cup.

The draw will be made at Kooyong Sunday morning.



U.S. wrestling champion Lee Kemp is expected to be a strong contender for the gold medal at the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

U.S. wrestling star lacks only a gold medal

By Stephen T. Holland

LOS ANGELES — U.S. three-time world freestyle wrestling champion Lee Kemp wants to be known as the best in the sport worldwide. And he's going to try for it at the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

Jessica Kemp knows this about her son, known to ever since Lee was a tot growing up in Cleveland, Ohio. Lee liked a good fight, liked it even better when he won.

In today's amateur wrestling world, few ever bother the 73.35-kilogramme wrestling specimen either. He's compiled a lifetime record of 410-28-7. Kemp's wins include a Pan American Games title, four World Cup titles, three world crowns and three U.S. titles.

The biggest title — at least the one that certifies him as a great wrestler in the eyes of the world — is still missing from his resume, though. That's an Olympic title. That's more than keeping Kemp interested in the sport.

He's disappointed about the 1980 Olympic Games. Had it not been for the U.S. boycott of Moscow games, Kemp might have already won his gold medal, been satisfied and finished with wrestling.

Instead, the United States and several other countries, boycotted those games, held in Moscow. These days Kemp is more thoughtful of the lost opportunity than he was in those days.

Life became uncertain, although not as far as wrestling went. No doubt about that decision. He would wrestle and wait for the 1984 games in Los Angeles.

"I'm 26, now," he says. "I've only come to realize lately maybe there are reasons for this."

Missing the 1980 Olympics was bad for him. Yet deciding to study for an advanced business degree is good. "If I had competed in the 1980 Olympics, I wouldn't have been in graduate school," he says.

And, as Kemp says, those ill-fated Olympic Games have "allowed me to lose a few more times."

"Losing makes me realize how much I want to win," he explains. "I haven't lost that much. People always see me winning. But even the little I've lost is too much for me."

Kemp is still picking his shots these days. He doesn't wrestle unless it's against the best the world has to offer.

And Kemp says he could win by bigger margins but he's not interested in "humiliating anyone."

Dave Schultz, once of Oklahoma University, appears to be Kemp's biggest challenger for the U.S. Olympic spot.

No clues on missing Jules Rimet trophy

RIO DE JANEIRO (R)—Police said Saturday they are no nearer tracing the stolen Jules Rimet Cup after questioning several people, including former Brazilian football Association headquarters staff.

Despite appeals from leading members of the Brazilian sporting scene no leads to the cup's whereabouts have arisen and police believe it may already have been melted down for its 1.8-kg gold content to be sold.

The cup was won outright by Brazil after its three world soccer championships.

Insurers of the trophy have offered five million cruzeiros (\$5,250) for information leading to its recovery.

The association's president, Giulio Coutinho, has appealed to the Brazilian people to help find the cup, saying its spiritual value is

far higher than its material worth. The association has also offered a one million cruzeiro (\$1,050) reward for information leading to its safe.

Brazilian newspapers have carried reports of Brazil's greatest football idol Pele, who played in all three of Brazil's triumphant World Championships, as saying the robbery was a consequence of the country's social problems.

"It is not the fault of the thieves, but of the authorities, because the people are desperate, without money and without food," he was quoted as saying.

Coutinho said shortly after the robbery last Monday night he understood the cup was stolen by two men who overpowered the night porter at the Brazilian association's headquarters and then stole the trophy, along with three other cups, from a display cabinet.

Japanese climber sees mystery corpse on Everest

KATHMANDU (R)—One of three Japanese climbers who conquered Mount Everest earlier this month said Saturday he spotted an unidentified corpse on the icy upper slopes of the world's highest peak.

Norbu Yamada, 33, climbing leader of a 10-member Japanese mountaineering team, said they had not found the body of noted Japanese alpinist Yasuo Kato, who is presumed to have died from exposure after making a solo mid-winter ascent of the 8,848 metre summit a year ago.

But he said he saw a new body at

about 8,200 metres. The identity of the frozen corpse was not known, although Yamada said he believed it to be that of a big man. He said he could not see the face as the body was lying face downwards. The body was wearing a beige jacket, blue trousers and yellow gaiters.

In the sub-zero temperatures of Everest, bodies are preserved for years. Several summits over the past four years have spotted the body of Mrs. Hannelore Schmatz, who perished at an altitude of about 8,500 metres in October 1979.

American sprinter named 'world champion of champions'

PARIS (R)—American sprinter Carl Lewis has been voted "world champion of champions" for 1983 by a panel of international journalists, the French sports newspaper L'Equipe said Saturday.

Lewis, who won individual gold medals in the 100 metres and long jump at the world athletics championships in Helsinki in August, also anchored the American

4x100 metres relay to a world record at the games.

American tennis star Martina Navratilova was second in the poll, which was organised by the newspaper, with West German swimmer Michael Gross third.

The panel included sports writers from some of the world's leading newspapers.

Pakistan to decide team on Monday

MELBOURNE (R)—Pakistan will not decide until the morning of the match whether to include Imran Khan, their captain and star all-rounder, in the team to play Australia in the fourth cricket test starting here on Monday.

"There's no pressing need to announce the team now," Imran said Saturday. "We have one more practice session to go before the test and we'll wait and see what happens."

Despite Imran's hesitation to confirm his position, team manager Intikhab Alam has said it is almost certain he will be play but will not bowl.

"He (Imran) has been told by our doctor that he can do a bit of jogging and batting but no bowling," he said.

Imran, who has been sidelined

for four months by a fracture in his left shinbone, was impressive at net practice Saturday.

"I will be happy if I can make the side as a batsman," he said.

Pakistan, down 1-0 in the series, have been hoping that Imran's return will boost their morale.

Australia will go into the fourth test without fiery South Australian paceman Rodney Hogg who has declared himself unfit and has been replaced in the 12 by Queensland speedster John Maguire.

Maguire has impressed the selectors recently with some fine fast bowling performances. He took 10 wickets in a Sheffield shield against Western Australia last weekend, taking his total to 99 first class wickets.

The Australian pace attack that caused Pakistan serious problems in the first two tests will now be without both Hogg and Carl Rackemann, but Imran said this would not make much difference to the side.

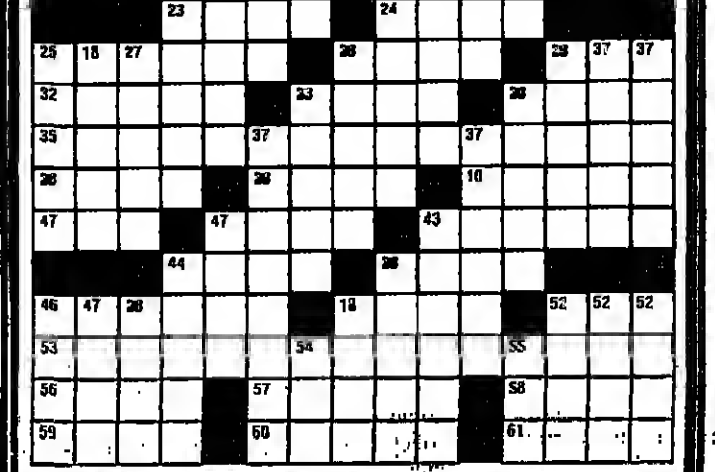
"Hogg was in the team that drew with us in the third test in Adelaide and we still managed to

THE Daily Crossword by Samuel K. Flegner

ACROSS	33 Deserve	56 Atlantic City competitor	26 Temperamental
1 Vocalist	34 — bar-gaining	57 Threefold	27 Cleanse
5 Green	35 Temporarily	58 Bundle of yarn	28 New England state
10 Bacterium	36 Margin	59 Despot	29 Protest
14 Instigate	39 One of the Turners	60 Painter Winslow	30 Ballet
15 Soft palate	40 Non-conformist	61 Scillan	31 Before eye or scout
16 Melody	41 Whiskey		33 Resting place for troops
17 Rarely	42 — Le Moko		34 Annoyance
20 Successful return in tennis	43 Philippine city		36 The crucial hour
21 Fall short	44 Swing music		37 Dared
22 "Valse —"	45 Symbol of peace		42 Commiseration
23 Defect	46 Recognition		43 Amen —
24 German veto	47 Progenitor		44 Court figure
25 Damage	48 Occasional ally		45 Actress Kaaton
26 Author of "Utopia"			46 Spanish painter
29 Nibbled			47 Sits
32 Proper and collective			48 River in Siberia

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS	DOWN
1. ARIANA	1. EXCITED
2. CUBA	2. SOLITARY
3. ADITYA	3. DIPLOMACY
4. RUINER	4. KEATSIAN
5. ARIANA	5. UPPERCLASSMAN
6. RUINER	6. NAUTICAL COMMAND
7. ARIANA	7. NICKNAMES
8. RUINER	8. ANNEX
9. ARIANA	9. WHITE TABLE
10. RUINER	10. STREET URCHIN
11. ARIANA	11. CUPID
12. RUINER	12. PUBLIC TUMULT
13. ARIANA	13. HORSEHAIR
14. RUINER	14. MISCHIEVOUS
15. ARIANA	15. CLEVELAND'S
16. RUINER	16. LAKE
17. ARIANA	17. HEALTH, IN BORDEAUX
18. RUINER	18. BELINIT
19. ARIANA	19. SUGGEST
20. RUINER	20. ARTICLE



MFA to hold inquiry into 12-1 defeat

VALLETTA (R)—The Maltese Football Association (MFA) is to hold an inquiry into the 12-1 defeat at the national side suffered by Spain in a European soccer championship qualifying match on Wednesday.

Malta's thrashing in the final group seven fixture in Seville meant that Spain qualified for the finals in France next year at the expense of the Netherlands, who earlier in the week beat Malta 5-0 in Amsterdam.

Spain went into the match knowing they had to win by 11 clear goals to deny the Dutch a trip to France.

The executive council of the MFA said Friday night it was appointing a board of inquiry to investigate the reasons behind the mauling by Spain.

It will consist of independent members within the MFA, members from both government and opposition in the Maltese parliament and a representative of the Maltese Sportswriters' Association. It will be headed by an independent chairman who will be a lawyer.

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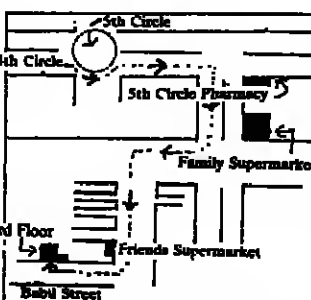
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Trud criticises quality of Soviet plants' output

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet factories are producing millions of roubles worth of rubbish each year, the trade union newspaper Trud said Saturday.

It complained that in 1983 alone the consumer and electric goods industries manufactured more than 70 million roubles (\$90 million) worth of products which had to be scrapped.

In some factories the situation was so bad that the output of defective items exceeded that of saleable wares.

Inferior production also affected other branches of the economy, too, Trud said.

It cited the case of one mineral water plant which had been filling bottles with tapwater.

State inspectors were now imposing fines totalling 30 million roubles (\$39 million) a year on the offenders but these had little effect as factories had no trouble finding the money, it added.

The newspaper said the basic problem was that industrial performance was still measured in quantity instead of quality and that it was time the criteria were changed.

It also suggested that the salaries paid to industrial managers should be directly linked to the quality of the goods their factories produced.

European Commission wants to stop national trade controls

BRUSSELS (R) — The European community Commission wants member states to give up their right to take national measures to block imports from third countries.

The commission said in a statement Friday that current regulations permitting such action were an anomaly which should be dropped to eliminate the last major barrier to community-wide import regulation.

Current rules allow member states to act unilaterally against imports damaging their national market, and to seek commission approval afterwards, with the possibility of an appeal to the Council of Ministers, which represents all 10 governments.

Commission sources said a case earlier this year in which Italy restricted imports of steel tubes and continued the measures for months in defiance of the commission illustrated the need for reform in order to harmonise community-wide trade policy.

The commission said it would ask the council of ministers to change the regulations to give responsibility over import controls exclusively to community agencies.

Meanwhile, Washington has once again become a hive of protectionist lobbying on behalf of the U.S. carbon steel industry. The lobbying this time is focused on steel imports from Third World countries and there are fears that the carefully-crafted export licensing agreement reached last year with the European Community (E.C.) could be overturned in the struggle against these competing exporters.

Tension could keep dollar high in 1984, experts say

NEW YORK (R) — The laws of economics suggest the dollar should fall from its recent record highs in 1984, but many economists and dealers around the world say the value of the U.S. currency could remain very high in the coming year.

Predictions of a fall in the dollar's value were confidently made at this time a year ago. They proved wildly wrong and the dollar advanced 17 per cent against the West German mark, 26 per cent against the French franc, and 15 per cent against sterling, with only the Japanese yen holding most of its ground.

The experts said the dollar rose to record levels because of extraordinary large capital flows into the United States.

A poll by Reuters correspondents in world financial centres shows that expectations of international tension, which has fuelled the capital flows, could continue to give strong support to the dollar and could even override the economic fundamentals that suggest it should fall.

In the United States itself, some economists say the dollar could fall sharply if U.S. inflation seemed to be quickening, if political tensions lessened or if the Democrats offered a serious challenge to the Republican presidential candidate, presumably President Reagan, in November's election.

A typical view came from Mr. Mathis Caballaveta, head of the foreign exchange department at the Union Bank of Switzerland, who wrote in the Swiss newspaper Finanz und Wirtschaft that a renaissance of economic fundamentals — the facts and figures of national economic performance — could depress the dollar.

He attributed the greatest recovery potential to the Japanese yen and West German mark, followed by the Swiss franc.

In 1983 the dollar rose inexorably despite spiralling U.S. payments deficits.

Citicorp economists see the merchandise trade deficit widening in 1984 to \$75 billion from \$63 billion in 1983 and the current account gap, which includes services as well as goods, to \$47 billion from \$34 billion.

Conversely, Frankfurt economists say the mark is weak despite positive fundamentals including a growing economy, steady inflation and a healthy current account surplus.

This is partly because of the flick bribery affair, which threatens to topple Economics Minister Otto Lambsdorff, the bailout of private bank Schroeder, Muenchmeyer, Hengst and Co. and the bankruptcy of the construction equipment makers IBH Holding and Wibau.

Another factor weakening the mark has been the arrival of NATO missiles in West Germany.

Mr. Tom Miller of Hudson Research Europe in Paris said the poor U.S. current account outlook and slowing capital flows into the United States should allow a weaker dollar and a firmer mark in 1984. But he forecast that higher inflation in France than in West Germany would force a further devaluation of the French franc against the mark.

Chief economists and dealers at Switzerland's three largest banks forecast a lower dollar because of the U.S. current account gap, higher U.S. inflation, a slight fall in nominal U.S. interest rates and a somewhat larger decline in real

U.S. interest rates, which take inflation into account.

But the slide will be limited by the dollar's safe haven role, they added.

Mr. David Kern, chief economist at London's National Westminster Bank, forecast a declining but resilient dollar.

"The dollar has assumed all the characteristics of a hedge currency," he said. "Instabilities that used to favour gold now favour the dollar."

Japanese dealers and economists said the yen was set to firm, despite temporary political uncertainties in Tokyo, but this would be limited by continuing high U.S. interest rates.

"The yen is expected to appreciate against the dollar only gradually," said Mr. Kohsaku Furuta, chief economist at Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank.

Mr. Yasuo Ishi-I, Dai-ichi's chief dealer, added: "President Reagan is unlikely to take the risk of a resurgence of inflation by reducing interest rates in the year of the presidential elections."

The outflow of capital from Japan into U.S. securities will continue if U.S. interest rates remain high and political tension in the Middle East casts doubts on Japan's oil supply lines, Japanese bankers said.

U.S. economists mostly agree with the consensus of a gradual dollar fall, though the combination of the huge federal budget deficit and tight monetary policy is expected to keep interest rates under upward pressure.

Mr. Bryan Walsh, senior vice president at Irving Trust, saw the dollar weakening but staying basically strong.

U.S. underground economy estimated at 7.5% of GNP

WASHINGTON (R) — A new U.S. congressional study estimates the so-called underground economy that eludes federal government taxation at about \$222 billion, 7.5 per cent of the Gross National Product (GNP).

This figure is less than previous estimates, but still implies a large loss of federal tax revenue due to unreported economic activity, Senator Roger Jepsen said.

Senator Jepsen, an Iowa Republican, is chairman of the joint economic committee, which commissioned the study by Dr. David O'Neill, chief of the U.S. Census Bureau's socioeconomic studies branch.

Dr. O'Neill's research was based directly on the current U.S. population survey and could be considered the most reliable study yet done of the underground economy, Senator Jepsen said.

The term underground economy includes anyone engaged in economic activity that is not reported to the Internal Revenue Service for taxation.

Previous estimates have placed the underground economy at between 5 and 20 per cent of GNP, but Dr. O'Neill said the new analysis suggested it might not be nearly as large as indicated by some researchers and the media.

He concluded: "It is unlikely that the previous indirect estimates that put the unmeasured underground economy at near 20 per cent of official GNP are valid."

Dr. O'Neill added that full-time workers in the underground economy, especially those in illegal businesses, earned between \$50,000 and \$100,000 a year.

Mr. Jepsen, in his foreword to the report, said previous estimates of the underground economy had

makers are traditionally wary of making tough decisions for fear of losing voter support.

"There is real danger of political stalemate in the coming year over the budget deficit," says Senator Robert Dole, chairman of the Senate finance committee.

But conservatives and liberals say the United States cannot live forever with the prospect of \$200 billion deficits stretching into the future, as U.S. budget director Mr. David Stockman said. "As far as the eye can see."

Such deficits are financed by borrowing and are widely blamed for keeping U.S. interest rates high and contributing to the dollar's recent surge on world foreign exchange markets.

Senator Dole's Republican-controlled committee has been holding hearings to focus domestic attention on the deficits, despite a boycott of the sessions by the White House.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1983 MERRY CHRISTMAS!

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today is especially fine for being of service to those less fortunate than yourself. May today bring you a wonderful response to the message of the Prince of Peace.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be very courteous and kind with close lies today. The evening should be spent pulling the house in order.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A good day for enjoying others and pleasing them more. Do some special favor for your mate. Make this a family day.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Stay at home where your greatest happiness can be expressed. You are able to understand how to make your home more harmonious.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Deliver gifts to those of whom you are fond and who depend on you to bring them happiness. Take that chip off your shoulder.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Count your blessings on this day and be thankful for them. Plan for the days ahead. See to it that everything is in order.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You are glowing with happiness today and can be most affectionate with others. See as many friends as you can. Be kind-hearted.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Do some meditating on what can bring more happiness at home. Be particularly nice to your mate and family.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Take time to see good friends today as well as family. Make some new friends. You will gain a long desired wish.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) During spare time gad about and see persons who can help you. Make plans for the future. Be good to family.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) The ideal day to express your true beliefs and be happy. Enjoy a sumptuous family dinner.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Ideal day to spend in the company of the one you love and show true devotion. Do whatever will make this person much happier. Be wise.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be more thoughtful of friends who like you and include them in your family plans for the day. Drive with utmost care.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be someone who understands the problems of others and wants to help them so slant education along lines of social service work. This is someone who will be precise and clever and will expect this of others around him.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The morning is good for straightening out whatever requires you get matters in good condition after yesterday's celebration. Later, get together with a talented associate.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contacting an individual who has a fascinating philosophy can be helpful in evening your ideas. Avoid a jealous colleague.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Go to an expert who can cue you in on the best way to become more proficient at your career work. Improve health and appearance.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) State what you desire your mate to do and get the right response. Make plans for this evening early in the day.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Important you agree with kin on matters that will bring more harmony at home. Handle business affairs wisely.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get together with allies and come to a new agreement where kindred skills are concerned and get ahead faster.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get into financial affairs you put off because of the holiday and let the family assist you with them. Be active and happy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You may feel tired in the morning, but after lunch energy increases. Make up for lost time and accomplish much.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Avoid a gossiping friend in the morning. Then quietly get together with an expert to talk over financial affairs.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Listen to what others have to suggest in order to gain your cherished wishes. Take a trip with a good friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Steer clear of that person who wants you to go out for a good time when you have important work to accomplish.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you don't argue over a business matter in the morning, you can later achieve what you set out to do today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't have that talk with a partner in the morning or an argument will result. Get advice of experts to clear up an enigma.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be an absolute fuss-budget and will always be dissatisfied with clothing, food, environment, etc. Teach not to criticize and to be grateful. Your progeny will later become more cooperative and very ambitious. Stress education.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

China will lose if confidence in Hong Kong collapses

PEKING (R) — Changes in the key economic relationship between Hong Kong and China could present a major problem to policy makers in Peking and London now bargaining over the British colony's future.

Trade and other economic links between the two are so strong that Peking depends on the continuing prosperity of Hong Kong, whose economy has come under severe pressure since China announced it would take the territory back from Britain in 1997.

Hong Kong, in turn, has come to rely on Peking, which has invested large sums in the colony and uses it as its middleman in dealings

with the outside world. Since China reformed its links with the outside world in 1977, a trade boom between the colony and the Peoples Republic has benefited both equally, political and business sources in Hong Kong and Peking told Reuters.

Hong Kong has bolstered its growth with cheap Chinese food and raw material imports while China has raked in foreign exchange from these and burgeoning re-exports via the colony.

However, trade has levelled out in the past two years and a new relationship is evolving under which both sides could pay heavily if confidence is lost in China's ability

to sustain the colony's prosperity.

Mushrooming financial and investment activity in Hong Kong, by mainland institutions and the narrowing of China's annual trade surplus with Hong Kong indicate the changes taking place.

The sources said Peking had made a conscious decision to get involved in the Hong Kong economy ahead of a political takeover.

But they added that some Chinese institutions had become increasingly aware that Hong Kong's sophisticated economy could be effectively used rather than just milked.

It was Hong Kong's change from being a mainly manufacturing centre to the world's third most important financial centre and a rich source of investment and equity funds that had altered its economic relationship with China, the sources said. Yet, they said China's political

stance had harmed its hopes for an increased economic role in Hong Kong.

Peking's public rebukes to Britain since secret talks began last year have seriously affected its own investments and foreign exchange holdings in the colony as confidence slumped and markets plummeted, the sources said.

The extent of the new direct Chinese presence in Hong Kong is difficult to access accurately due to the complex nature of Chinese interests scattered around its banks and companies.

Statistics show Hong Kong's banks and deposit-taking institutions had a net liability to China of 7 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$900 million) at the end of June.

This is a complete turnaround from net claims on China two years ago and reflects Peking's increased foreign exchange holdings in Hong Kong and rising

investment by Chinese companies through mainland banks in the colony, banking sources said.

Rough estimates from known deals put Chinese property interests in Hong Kong at over 3.4 billion dollars (\$500 million).

On the other side, Hong Kong Chinese have invested at least 2 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$256 million) in mainland ventures over the last few years, the sources said.

Some competitive mainland firms are making tentative steps to use as a source of venture capital Hong Kong's volatile stock market, which grew from its solid manufacturing base and an absence of regulatory mechanisms.

The colony's foreign exchange markets grew with the arrival of international banks and a lifting of exchange controls and it is arguable whether Hong Kong can continue much as it is without the services these markets provide.

The exchange markets were certainly the first to react to any

adverse news from Peking over the colony's future, the sources said.

The dangers were seen last October when, largely due to political uncertainty sparked by Peking, the government was forced to re-link the colony's dollar with the U.S. currency to prevent further drastic falls in its value, they said.

The nervousness of the markets during each official round of talks with Peking is an obvious barometer of confidence, even though it does not always reflect the true state of the economy, now recovering from the effects of recession, the sources said.

Neither does it reflect the true state of the talks, which continue informally between each round.

As the changing links between Peking and Hong Kong become more pronounced, the mutual benefits from a political settlement will grow, the sources believe.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"Erica's cousin's doctor's girlfriend's nephew is getting serious about Luke's coach's mother's chiropractor!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NONAY

LEDY

ZACMEE

TRAMPE

THE DOCTOR PRACTICED ACUPUNCTURE ON THE SIDE IN ORDER TO PICK UP THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

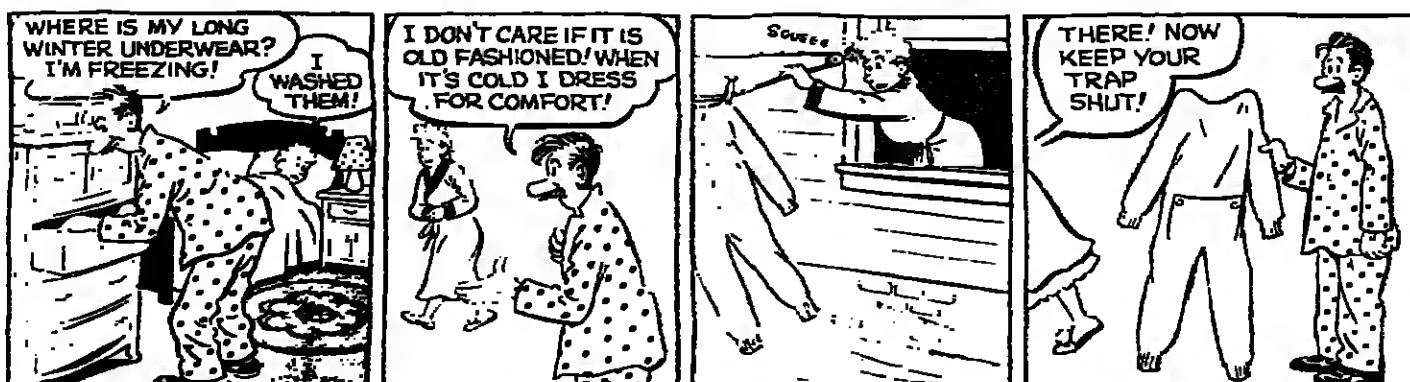
Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHAIR FOUNT PENCIL BALLET
Answer: That classical musician hit rock bottom when he played this — BACH ROTTEN

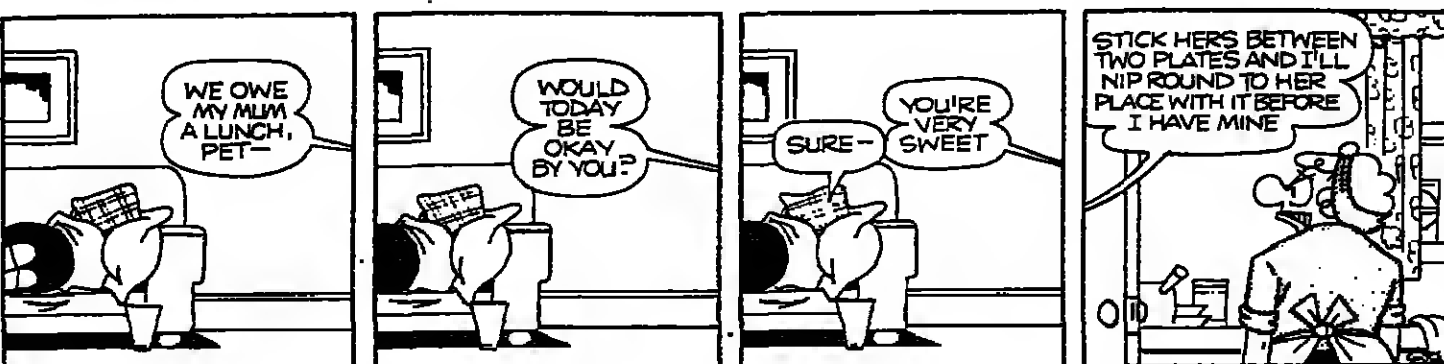
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



British monarch says modern technology should aid the poor

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth said Saturday modern technology should be harnessed to bridge the gap between rich and poor countries, describing that gap as the greatest problem facing the world.

"We shall not begin to close this gap until we hear less about nationalism and more about interdependence," she added in her traditional Christmas message to Britain and the Commonwealth.

The 57-year-old monarch, speaking with a model of the U.S. space shuttle on her Buckingham Palace desk, said the world technological and communications revolution had touched the lives of most people in the world.

"In spite of all the progress that has been made the greatest problem in the world remains the gap between rich and poor countries," she added.

"What we want to see is still more modern technology being used by poorer countries to provide employment and to produce primary products and components, which will in turn be bought by the richer countries at competitive prices," she said.

The queen, who marked the 30th anniversary of her coronation in June, praised the spirit

of cooperation in the 48-member Commonwealth and said one of its main aims was to contribute towards redressing the economic balance between nations.

Paying tribute to development in India, the host of last month's Commonwealth leaders' summit, she added that advances such as the space shuttle had changed most people's lives.

"Leaders and specialists can meet and discuss political and technical problems. News travels faster and there is more of it: new opportunities for world trade have been opened up by this communication revolution," she said.

But she added that in spite of these advances the age-old problems of human communication remained.

"We have the means of sending and receiving messages. We can travel to meetings in distant parts of the world, we can exchange experts. But we still have difficulty in finding the right message to send," she said. "We can still ignore the messages we don't like to hear and we can still talk in riddles and listen without trying to comprehend."

"I hope that Christmas will remind us that it is not how we communicate but what we communicate with each other that really matters," she added.

The queen's message last year sparked controversy in Britain even before it was broadcast because it paid tribute to British forces which recaptured the Falkland Islands from Argentina.

The communist Morning Star



Queen Elizabeth II

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The communist Morning Star

newspaper broke an embargo on the pre-recorded message, calling that section of it jingoistic.

This year, she concentrated on the ease of modern travel and communication, saying modern technology had touched most aspects of life throughout the world.

"We saw this in dramatic form in India," she said, recalling that 22 years ago she had seen some of the problems India faced.

"Since then, the population has grown from 440 million to over 700 million, yet India has managed to become one of the 10 or so leading industrial nations in the world and has become self-sufficient in food," she said.

The queen said she had been heartened by real progress through Commonwealth cooperation. "There is a flow of experts in all directions, with Canadians helping in the Caribbean, Indians in Africa, New Zealanders in India, Australians in Papua New Guinea, British in Kenya. The list is endless."

She urged the members of the Commonwealth to make the most of the world-wide comradeship it offered and communicate as friends in tolerance and understanding.

Angolan rebels hold back Czech captives

PRETORIA (R) — Angolan rebels say they are freeing all their foreign captives except Czechoslovaks as a goodwill gesture for Christmas.

A spokesman for UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) fighting the Marxist rulers in Luanda said the captives were to have been handed over to the International Red Cross at a rebel camp Friday.

But it was not immediately clear whether the handover had taken place. Informed sources in South Africa said a substantial number might be released shortly after Christmas.

UNITA, which controls large sections of the bush in southern Angola, reported this week capturing 18 Brazilians, Portuguese, Spanish, Polish, Japanese, Filipino and Italian nationals.

A spokesman said in Lisbon that five Britons taken last month would also be among those freed.

The release of about 20 Czechoslovaks — among 45 captured last June — has apparently been held up because of attempts to exchange them for prisoners held by the Angolan government.

A UNITA communiqué said the government had refused to agree on a swap and the Czechoslovaks were being held pending further discussion with the Red Cross.

Two Canadian missionary nurses meanwhile arrived in South Africa from Angola, after being held captive for several weeks in the Angolan bush, in an apparent preliminary to the release of UNITA captives.

S. Indian rains kill 17

NEW DELHI (R) — At least 17 people have been killed and hundreds of village huts were flattened in heavy rains over the past two days in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu, state officials said Saturday.

Floodwaters submerged a large belt of rice fields and thousands of villagers whose homes were threatened were moved to higher ground.

Officials in Madras said several rivers in the Cauvery Delta area had burst their banks, but floods were draining swiftly.

Most of the victims were killed when rain-soaked walls collapsed onto sheltering villagers.

Bishop denies being kidnapped in Nicaragua

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — An American-born bishop has turned up in Honduras denying Nicaraguan claims that he had been kidnapped by right-wing rebels there.

Monsignor Salvador Schaefer, 65, said he left Nicaragua of his own free will to accompany about 3,000 Miskito Indians in their flight from the country.

Bishop Schaefer disappeared from a Miskito Indian town in northern Nicaragua on Tuesday. The Nicaraguan government said he had been kidnapped by U.S.-backed anti-government rebels. But he told reporters that he

arrived in Honduras Friday: "It was not kidnapped. I travelled to Honduras to accompany 3,000 Miskito Indians fleeing the Sandinista regime."

He said the Miskito Indians had been planning to seek sanctuary in Honduras for several months. He intended to return to Nicaragua to continue his pastoral work.

Bishop Schaefer's disappearance heightened tensions between Honduras, used as a base by U.S.-backed rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government, and Nicaragua, which accused the Honduran government of aiding rebels in their attacks.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Rolls Royce car shortage hits U.S.

NEW YORK (R) — Really big U.S. spenders are having a shopping problem this Christmas: There is a Rolls-Royce shortage. The very rich are fond of buying the hand-crafted cars, costing \$100,000 or more, as gifts for their loved ones. Wealthy ranchers, industrialists, pop stars, doctors, dentists and sportsmen have made the United States the main market for the cars, which take up to five months to build. A five-week strike in England this autumn caused a shortage. Rolls-Royce spokesman Reg Abbiss told Reuters: "Some dealers will deliver the car gift-wrapped with red and white satin bows on the hood (bonnet). There is now a chronic shortage of Rolls-Royce cars in the United States. During the strike we lost about 240 cars which would have been here for the Christmas trade."

Salvation Army at odds with New York

NEW YORK (R) — The Salvation Army, whose brass bands are a traditional part of Christmas in New York, has run afoul of a city ban on discrimination against homosexuals. The city is threatening to withdraw \$5 million worth of contracts it has with the Salvation Army to run day care and old people's centres because the army will not sign a pledge saying it does not discriminate against homosexuals. All city contractors were required as of January last year to sign the pledge as part of an order by Mayor Edward Koch. Lt. Col. Roland Schram, the army's chief of New York operations, said: "We do not discriminate against hiring homosexuals, but we just cannot sign the pledge as a matter of our national policy."

King Tut's curse falls on Lloyds

LONDON (R) — The curse of Tutankhamun struck Lloyds of London in the form of a heavy insurance bill after a television company was jinxed while making a film about the ancient Egyptian boy king. A judge ruled that the company, forced to delay filming at Luxor in Egypt in 1979 when an actor broke his leg, could recover damages from the insurance house. The film recounted the 1922 British expedition to Luxor to open Tutankhamun's treasure-packed tomb, inscribed with a curse promising death to all who entered. Actor Ian McShane, playing a member of the expedition, managed to throw himself from a vintage car before it crashed over the edge of a plateau during filming and said it felt as if the car was being pulled towards the ravine.

Motorcycle ace faces tax suit

CLEVELAND, Ohio (R) — A \$1.6-million civil lawsuit against former motorcycle daredevil Evel Knievel and his wife Linda has been filed by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for back taxes, interest and penalties. The government says the money is due for taxes from 1972 to 1976 when Knievel was making news and breaking bones with his death-defying stunts. Knievel said recently he grossed some \$200 million in his daredevil days, netting an estimated 35 to 40 million, but spent \$45 million.

Canadian woman gets top post

OTTAWA (R) — Jeanne Sauvé, appointed as Canada's first woman governor-general, says she believes merit and not gender was the prime issue in choosing who should replace Governor-General Ed Schreyer.

Mrs. Sauvé, 61, French-Canadian liberal, is used to breaking down barriers. She became the first woman speaker of the Canadian House of Commons in 1981.

Mrs. Sauvé said her appointment, announced in London by Buckingham Palace, was "a magnificent breakthrough for women" but said the question of gender was not an issue.

"I'm sure there were other names brought up, but I don't think that there was any consideration as to 'should we appoint a woman or not.' I'm sure the only consideration was who was fit for the job," she said. "It's a terrific opportunity to serve the country and I'm really quite delighted to have been asked to do it."

"It's another step along the way of women being represented in every facet of government," said Sally Barnes, president of Ontario's status of women council.

Conservative leader Brian Mulroney called Mrs. Sauvé "a woman of great talent, accomplishment and warmth. I am pleased she will continue to serve Canada and Canadians in such high office."

New Democratic Party leader Ed Broadbent said Mrs. Sauvé would bring many exceptional qualities to her post as representative of the monarch in Canada.

U.S. urged to pull out of UNESCO

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. State Department has suggested that the United States should threaten to withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in a bid to moderate what it sees as its anti-Western bias, the New York Times reported Saturday.

The newspaper said the recommendation was sent to President Reagan with a Dec. 31 deadline to file notice of withdrawal.

The State Department would not comment on the report.

The Times said U.S. officials had complained about UNESCO's anti-Western positions.

Sri Lankan emergency extended

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's state of emergency has been extended until Jan. 17 to combat guerrilla attacks and prevent a recurrence of ethnic violence in which nearly 400 people were killed five months ago.

Parliament Friday night voted 129-11 for the extension after Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa said guerrilla violence was continuing in the northern and eastern provinces.

Earlier Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vincent Perera read out a list of robberies of banks and jewellery by armed guerrillas during the past month.

Indonesia blames gangs

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's chief of police, Gen. Anton Soedjarto, today blamed mysterious killings on gang warfare and denied the government was conducting an unofficial war on criminals.

None of the murders had been carried out by the killings had yet been caught, but police were hunting the gangs, he said.

Allegations that extra-legal killings were being carried out by the

armed forces were untrue, Gen. Anton said in an interview with Reuters and two other journalists.

He described reports that the deaths totalled up to 4,000 as exaggerated.

He said there had been a tough crackdown on a new breed of western-inspired criminal since he became police chief in January, resulting in a sharp fall in the national crime rate.

Origins of Christmas lie in pagan rituals

By Peter Gumbel
Reader

COPENHAGEN — The Vikings may not have heard of carols or tinsel, but at Christmas many of their heathen rituals are still celebrated throughout the Christian world.

Folklore experts and medieval scholars say Santa Claus, Christmas presents and special biscuits are just some of the traditions that may have been adopted from dark-age rites of the Nordic warriors.

In Scandinavia, more than 1,000 years after Christianity was first introduced, ancient pagan belief goes hand-in-hand with the celebration of the birth of Christ.

"In fact, it was the Nordic people who invented Christmas," says Iorn Pile of Denmark's National Folklore Museum.

The prominence of Christmas is fairly recent as it was long overshadowed in the Christian calendar by the commemoration of Christ's death and resurrection at Easter, theologians say.

The date of Dec. 25 was chosen in the fourth century by the fathers of the early church to coincide with the annual Roman festival of the Winter Solstice.

But folklore experts say that before the Roman festival, which celebrated "sol invictus" (unconquered sun) — the start of longer days and shorter nights — the people of Scandinavia offered gifts to their deities amid huge rejoicing.

Traces of the Nordic festival, which appears to be a pagan fertility rite, are most easily found in Scandinavian languages, scholars say.

The modern word for Christmas in Danish, Norwegian and Swedish is "Jul", almost identical to the name of the pagan festival "Jol". This has been passed into English as "yule" and is pronounced in roughly the same way.

Live animals were sacrificed and offered up to the Norse Gods Odin and Freya to win their favour and secure good crops — a possible forerunner of Christmas presents.

Alcohol, too, appears to have been an essential part of the early festival for the beer and mead-swilling northerners.

Norse sagas invariably connect "Jol" to drink, pre-empting the alcohol-induced high spirits of the modern Christmas that would have been frowned upon by Puritan Christian ancestors.

The origin of Christmas biscuits with special shapes may also lie in an old Scandinavian custom in

which images of gods, animals and humans were made in dough and baked.

Pile, who has researched into Christmas for almost 30 years, says this tradition is known only because of a decree of the early Norwegian church in the 1100s which sought to outlaw the practice.

Many of today's Christmas customs have a highly confused origin as they evolved slowly through the centuries, often adding new characteristics.

The modern image of Santa Claus, the jolly old man with a white beard who travels by reindeer and slides down chimneys, has gone through numerous changes.

As such he can only be dated with certainty to 1835, when U.S. songwriter Clement Clarke Moore made the first known reference in his "A Visit from St. Nicholas". Santa Claus' "proper" name.

Nicholas himself, the patron saint of children, lived in the third century in what is now Turkey. His day, Dec. 6, is still celebrated in some European countries, notably the Netherlands, by giving gifts to children.

But in Scandinavia, Christmas is the time of a benevolent imp who traditionally has a long white beard, red pointed hat and brings gifts and good luck.

Most department stores in Nordic countries use the imp, known in Danish as "nisse", to deck out their Christmas window displays. And folklore experts maintain the nisse may be the direct forerunner of modern cults like Santa Claus.

"You can see their importance when you consider that nisse were depicted in olden times as sitting at the top of evergreen trees, before their place was taken by the Christmas Star of Bethlehem," says Ib Varnild from the Danish National Museum.

The nisse are mentioned in an ancient Icelandic saga as household mascots who advise and protect families, in direct contrast to the evil trolls who leave a trail of destruction.

And the idea has turned full circle: An English company has started a "santaland project" in the Swedish town of Mora which it says will provide a permanent home for Santa Claus.

One of its functions will be a "dial direct" line to father Christmas — a modern answer to the stacks of mail addressed to "Santa Claus, North Pole" that Scandinavian post offices receive every year.

THE CHRISTMAS PUZZLE

Edited by Herb Ertenson

SHORT REMAKES

By Victor Jambor, Jr.

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